

ARARAT.

A SEARCHLIGHT ON ARMENIA.

Vol. III. No. 27. London : SEPT., 1915.

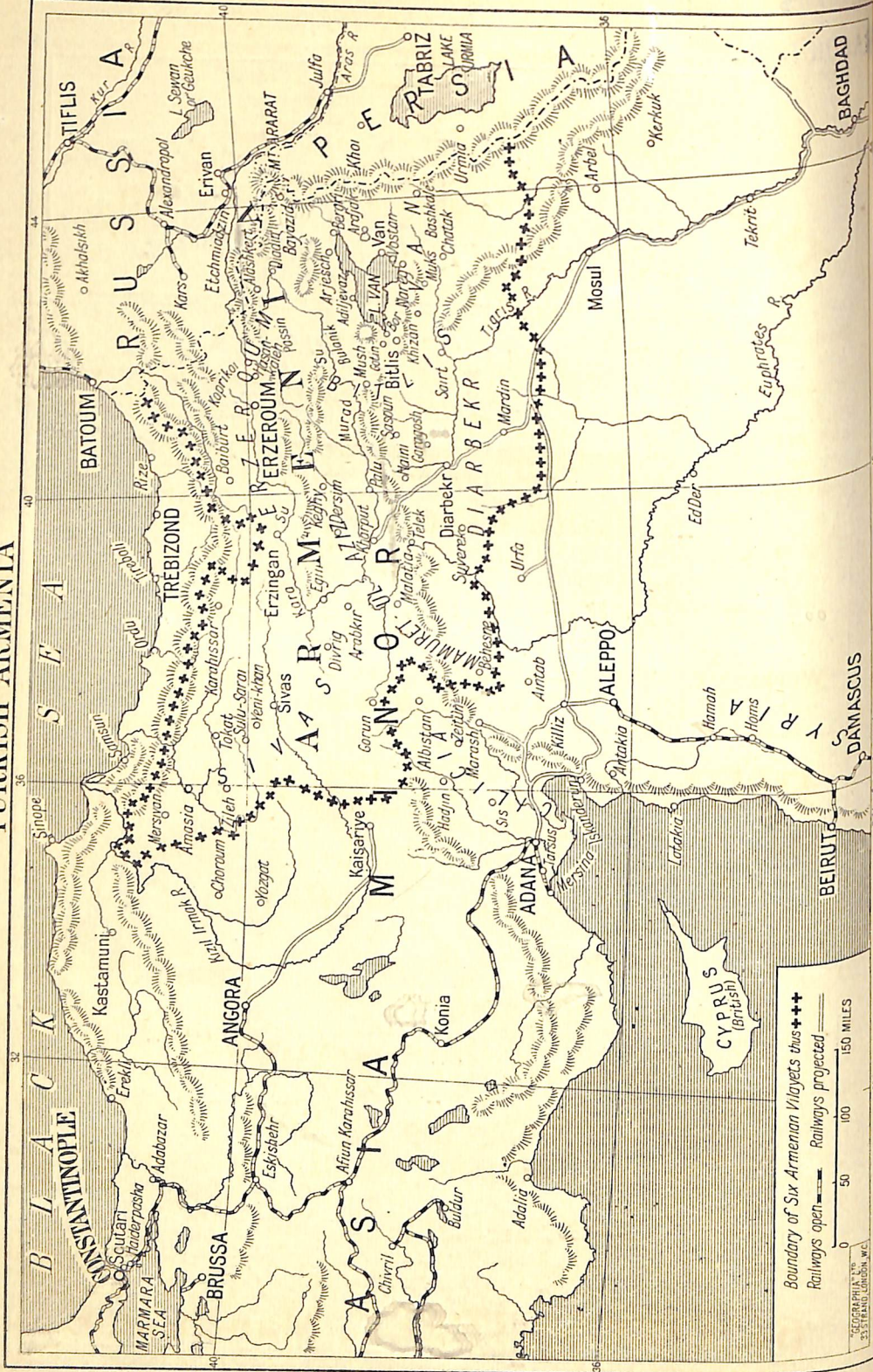
Price 6d.

Annual Subscription 6 Shillings.



All communications affecting this periodical should be addressed to the Editor, "Ararat," The Armenian United Association of London, 44, Queen's Road, Bayswater, London, W.

TURKISH ARMENIA

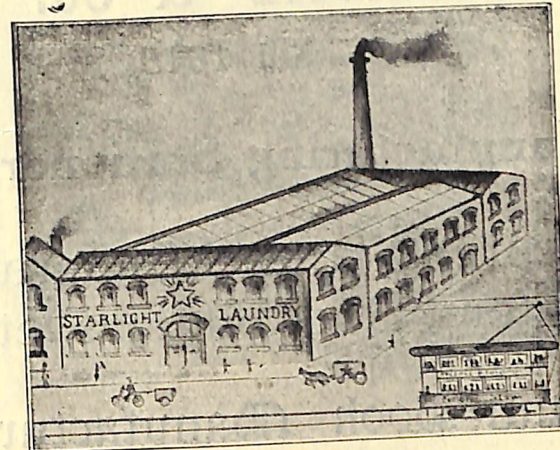


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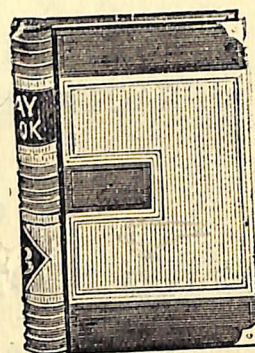
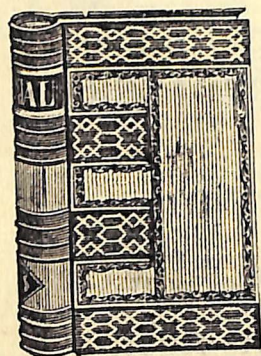
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Current Notes.

Since we last wrote, there has been much of importance to chronicle. On the eastern front, Russia's rapid retreat before the German forces has led to radical changes in the superior staff of the Army, and the Grand Duke Nicholas has relinquished the Chief Command, which is now in the hands of the Czar himself. His Chief of Staff is General Alexeieff, who, by the way, is reported to be of Armenian origin; and the main armies are commanded by Generals Ruzsky, Evert and Ivanoff. Since these changes were inaugurated, though by no means in consequence of them, there has been a revival of the Russian offensive, particularly in the Galician direction, and our Allies have not only held their own in a remarkable manner, but have inflicted heavy punishment on the Germans in more than one quarter. In the Gallipoli Peninsula, since the disappointing action after the landing in Suvla Bay, matters have been quiescent, or, to be more exact, no news has leaked out to the outside world. It is on the western front that most attention has been directed during the closing days of this month. Here the French and British forces have begun their long-expected offensive, and with signal success, and for the development of this offensive and its ultimate result we await in patience the news now coming in day by day. During the month there have been a few Zeppelin raids, one reaching the heart of London, and doing the usual unnecessary damage to buildings and slaughtering a certain number of harmless people, women and children. At Zeebrugge there has been heavy bombardment by the British fleet, in connection no doubt with the land operations in Belgium and France.

The mobilisation of the Bulgarian army has caused a stir in the Balkans and among the Allied Powers, and it has been promptly followed by mobilisation in Greece. That the Bulgarian step was taken for internal defence against possible aggressors, no one believes. King Ferdinand's Teutonic leanings are beyond doubt, and his action savours of a combination of deep-laid plans on German models with the undisguised cunning of the Turk. If he takes action against the Allies, Serbia, Greece and Roumania would fall upon him, and as we go to press we have the additional and solemn warning of Sir Edward Grey that the Allies would act against Bulgaria in such a contingency "without reserve and without qualification." There is no question that the majority of his nation are against King Ferdinand in his Germanophile policy, and instincts of dynastic preservation should convince him that the playing with fire in the midst of inflammables can only have one ending, the disappearance of himself from the future of Balkan harmony. Now that he knows without equivocation how he stands with the Powers and the Balkan States, he may perhaps remain on the fence of neutrality without coming down on the wrong side. At the same time he has given the world an object-lesson of his

true leanings and policy, and those who are striving to ensure the future peace of that world will take care to guard against all doubtful dealings emanating from this quarter—he has, in fact, cleared the atmosphere, and the Allies and the Balkan States now know him in his true colours.

Last month we noticed the gradual awakening of the British Press to the agonised cry that was ascending to Heaven of the countless thousands of Turkey's Christian subjects who were being massacred or deprived of their homes and all that they held dear. Though this awakening is still partial, it is becoming more pronounced in certain quarters, and we can but hope that the silent section will also before long add their voice of condemnation of the horrors which are perhaps without parallel in the history of humanity. This is not a time to temporise with a view to political needs or the safety of the pockets of bondholders. Belgium's plight touched to the quick every human heart throughout the length and breadth of the civilised world, and yet the attempted extermination of a whole race in Armenia is being viewed by a certain section of the Press as if it were an everyday occurrence in a benighted land. Our gratitude is due to those organs of the British Press which have begun to give due prominence to the tragic situation in Armenia, while we cannot express in sufficient measure our thanks to our stalwart friend Lord Bryce, and to Mr. Aneurin Williams, M.P., Chairman of the British Armenia Committee, for their efforts to rouse the flagging interest not only of the British nation, but of neutral States as well.

The Turk is a gentleman—we have heard this expression before, and it is one which some newspapers are now giving prominence to on reports from the Dardanelles that he treats his prisoners better than the German does. We have it too on the authority of Lord Kitchener that “it is only fair to acknowledge that—judged from a humane point of view—the methods of warfare pursued by the Turks are vastly superior to those which disgrace their German masters.” There is, however, the other side of the picture—Is a *gentleman* capable of committing such horrors and crimes as are reported from Armenia? Surely a man cannot claim the title of gentleman if, in the presence of power, he acts with decorum, but when no power for restraint is visible he acts as a brute beast towards the defenceless. Sir Edwin Pears, who should know better than most people what a Turk is, thus describes him in his *Turkey and its People*: “He may be a scoundrel who is robbing his Government, oppressing the peasant, taking *bakshish* whenever he can get it, but everything that he does will be done in gentlemanly fashion.” Then again: “One of our ambassadors spoke to me of a Turkish official as beyond doubt the biggest liar he had ever met with. But his manners were perfect.” Such is the gentlemanliness we have to deal with, and we trust when the time comes

for the final settlement, there will be no mock sentimentality to save the Turk from the punishment that is his due for horrors committed against Armenians transcending anything the history of the world can show.

At a meeting in London of the Armenian Committees of London and Manchester, it was decided that the intervention of the Pope might be asked to protect the Armenians from further massacres. Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., was approached on the subject, and he immediately referred the matter to Cardinal Bourne. The following is the latter's reply:—

“Sept. 14, 1915.

“Dear Mr. O'Connor,—Immediately on receipt of your letter of August 23 I communicated with the Cardinal Secretary of State. I have to-day received a letter from his Eminence assuring me that the Holy See has done, and is doing, all in its power on behalf of the unhappy Armenians who are subjects of the Ottoman Empire. The facts are evidently well known in Rome, and have awakened the keen sympathy of his Holiness.—Believe me, yours very sincerely,

“F. Card. BOURNE,

“Archbishop of Westminster.”

It is reported from Rome that the Armenian Catholics, of whom 20,000 are said to have been massacred, took a similar course and sent an influential Armenian deputation to the Vatican to recount the horrors. The Pontiff instructed his Apostolic Delegate at Constantinople to remonstrate with the Turkish Government.

The following official communication is from the French Ministry of Marine, under date September 21st:—

“Pursued by the Turks, about 5,000 Armenians, nearly 3,000 of whom were women and children or old people, took refuge towards the end of July in the massif of Djebel Moussa, to the north of the Bay of Antioch. There they had succeeded in keeping off their aggressors until the beginning of September, but then their provisions and munitions began to fail and they seemed certain to fall into the hands of the Turks, when they succeeded in signalling to a French cruiser the dangerous position in which they were. The cruisers of the French squadron immediately went to their assistance and succeeded in assuring the escape of the 5,000 Armenians, who were conveyed by our warships to Port Said, where they were heartily welcomed. They have been accommodated in a temporary camp.”

We are grateful to the French warships for saving these 5,000 refugees in their desperate straits, who would otherwise have certainly met their death; and our gratitude is also due to the Egyptian Government for caring for them in their pitiable condition when landed. The

Armenian Archbishop of Egypt at once took the opportunity of telegraphing to M. Poincaré the expression of his eternal gratitude for the rescue; and to King George for the generous aid accorded to the refugees by noble England in Egypt.

A number of representative Armenians living in Manchester called upon the Lord Mayor on September 20th to invoke his aid in a movement for the help of their countrymen now suffering at the hands of the Turks. Murder and outrage were, they said, the lot of multitudes of their people in the Turkish dominions. Great numbers of Armenians have had to fly for refuge into Russian territory.

In these circumstances the Armenians in Manchester wished to appeal to the Manchester public to help them in devising means for the relief of their fellow-countrymen. "We are fighting for the Allies," one of the speakers said, "and that is the only reason why our people are being murdered and outraged by the Turks."

The Lord Mayor said he would do what he could to meet the wishes of the deputation—to bring their appeal before the Manchester public. The position was fraught with difficulty, but whatever he could do to alleviate the situation of the unfortunate Armenians would be gladly done.

"We are fighting for the Allies," said the Manchester gentleman (*vide note above*); yes, and we are the *Seventh Ally*, as the writer in the *Daily Chronicle* points out (*vide the article reprinted elsewhere in this issue*). And yet how few in this country recognise that fact. In the *Times* of September 28th is a letter from Sir Ernest Birch, a well-known administrator from the Straits Settlements, who enumerates what British Malaya has provided for the British War Office. These constitute gifts of seven aeroplanes by seven different individuals or bodies of subscribers, all obtained through the efforts and zeal of Mr. Alma Baker, of Perak. The seventh on the list is Mr. Arathoon, an Armenian merchant, who is the sole giver of one aeroplane. And these Armenian efforts only come to light in a haphazard manner. By the way, Mr. Alma Baker, in the midst of his much more impressive efforts in Malaya, did not forget our Armenian Refugees' Relief Fund. Our June issue shows a donation of \$60, about £7, from Mr. and Mrs. C. Alma Baker, of Perak.

We are indebted to Mr. Morgenthau, the United States Ambassador at Constantinople, for the part he has played in attempting to mitigate the Armenian horrors. In view of the information received in Washington, that 450,000 Armenians had been killed, and 600,000 were homeless or exiled, several American philanthropists signified their willingness to contribute to a fund for bringing the persecuted people to the United States in accordance with a recent suggestion

by Mr. Morgenthau, as the Washington Government knew what excellent citizens Armenians have already made in the States. According to a recent issue of the *Gotchnag*, an Armenian paper published in the States, a telegram has been received from Sofia, which we give with all reserve. It is to the effect that Mr. Morgenthau had proposed to the Turkish Government to raise a million dollars and transfer all surviving Armenians to the States, and that Enver Pasha and Talaat Bey had accepted the proposal, and that Mr. Morgenthau had wired to Washington for the appointment of five Americans as a Committee to control such transfer. He is also reported to have said that the sum required would be nearer five than one million dollars; that he wished each of the western States could raise enough money to take as many Armenians as they could accommodate, as these people have hard-working qualities which would make of them good citizens, and necessary for the opening up of those States.

Viceroy of the Caucasus and Commander-in-Chief of the valiant Caucasian Army—such are the terms in which the Czar greets the Grand Duke Nicholas on his relinquishing the greater post at the head of the Russian forces which he had held from the beginning of the war. Armenians are naturally concerned in any change which takes place in the Caucasus, and we add our welcome and our greeting to one who has distinctly made his mark in Russian history, as well as left his mark on the German forces, in spite of the masterly retreats he was forced to engineer towards the end of his tenure of the greater office. But in welcoming a new Viceroy in the Caucasus, we cannot but regret the disappearance from the scene of Count Vorontzoff-Daschkoff, who, out of chaos under Prince Galitzin, made a smiling land of content and prosperity for Armenians, and welded them into loyal subjects of the Czar. Though a Russian first in his sentiments, he was a great administrator, and his tact and wisdom in pacification led to a reconciliation between a subject race and the supreme government which, if continued, must be of lasting benefit to both concerned. In him Armenians have lost a great friend, though his conspicuous abilities still remain at the service of Russia.

Were it not for the fiendish acts of the Turks, we might almost squeeze out of their doings a certain measure of comicality. Not very long ago the Constantinople papers published a notice from the Court-Martial calling upon Boghos Nubar Pasha to attend the Court within ten days, to be tried for conspiring to create an independent Armenia and for providing funds to assist the Armenians in revolting against the Government, etc. Failing his appearance, he would be tried in default, and his goods and property would be seized. The Turks must take Egypt first!

Russia and Armenia

The Orange Book

(Continued from page 51.)

VII.

Document No. 125, dated 4/17th January, 1914, is a telegram from the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople to M. Sazonoff, wherein M. de Giers summarises the main points of the reform scheme agreed to between Russia and Turkey with reference to the Armenian vilayets. The points enumerated are the following:—

Two Inspectors-General of European nationality shall be appointed for the two sectors of Eastern Anatolia—the first of these sectors consisting of the vilayets of Sivas, Erzeroum, and Trebizond; and the second, of the vilayets of Van, Bitlis, Kharput, and Diarbekir. The two Inspectors-General shall be empowered to exercise control over matters concerning the general administration, the judicial courts, the police and the gendarmerie of the two sectors. In cases of emergency and of exceptional peril, the Inspectors-General will have authority to call upon the military forces of the vilayets for maintaining public order and security in the event of the civil forces proving insufficient for the purpose.

Furthermore, the Inspectors-General shall have the power to dismiss corrupt officials and judges, if there is sufficient evidence to justify such summary action, and to appoint in their place other officials in accordance with the rules and regulations which obtain in the Ottoman Empire. They shall, afterwards, report such action to the Ministry concerned at Constantinople, explaining the reasons for such changes, supported by documentary evidence.

The Ambassador then proceeds to furnish details about the reform programme, the outline of which, during the course of these lengthy negotiations, has already been presented in previous documents.

Document No. 126 contains a further telegram, of the same date as the preceding, from M. de Giers to M. Sazonoff, in which the Ambassador states that no agreement has yet been reached on the subject of the composition of the General and Administrative Provincial Councils, nor with regard to the distribution of offices among the natives; and that he (the Ambassador) is insisting upon the insertion of the following formula in the reform scheme: "Until the appropriate preparation of an official census, whereby the mutual relations and proportions between the various communities, religions and languages will definitely be determined, there shall be elected half the members of the General and Administrative Provincial Councils from among Moslems, and the other half from among the Christians. The same process is to apply also with reference to the distribution of public offices." The Grand Vizier, however, continues

M. de Giers, agrees to this principle with regard to the vilayets of Van and Bitlis only, even though, as he says, the Armenians do not constitute a numerical majority in those vilayets. As to the remaining vilayets, the Grand Vizier dissents altogether, even provisionally, from a half-and-half representation on the Councils, on the ground that Moslems in those vilayets are in an overwhelming majority.

Document No. 127 contains a telegram, dated 4/17th January, 1914, from M. Sazonoff to M. de Giers, wherein the Russian Minister informs the Ambassador that Fakhreddin Bey, the Turkish Ambassador in Petrograd, had communicated to him that the Porte was disposed to sign an agreement with regard to the Armenian Question, if Russia consented to the following concessions: (i) that the General Provincial Councils shall have no power to levy contributions on behalf of ecclesiastical and educational institutions; (ii) that we should desist from our demands for a half-and-half representation of Moslems and non-Moslems in the administrative Councils of the vilayets; and (iii) that the irregular Kurdish Hamidié regiments should not be dissolved. "I stated to the Turkish Ambassador," adds M. Sazonoff, "that I categorically refuse to consider the second and the third proposals; as to the first, I cannot realise in what other way the needs of educational establishments may be satisfied, unless they are provided for by general fiscal measures. As for levies for the needs of ecclesiastical establishments, this question might perhaps easily be settled by taxing each community separately and in accordance with the requirements of such community."

Document No. 128 is a telegram from M. Adamoff, the Russian Consul at Erzeroum, addressed to M. de Giers, under date 6/19th January, 1914, wherein the Consul informs the Ambassador that the greater portion of the shops in the town had been closed down on the Friday morning, and that the Armenians expected an attack from the Moslems at any moment. Considerable excitement had been caused among the Moslems through the agitation of one Hilmi Bey, an emissary of the Young Turk Committee, sent there from Constantinople. The Young Turk Club in the town, under the initiative of the German Consul Anders, had arranged for a signal to be given for attack, which consisted in the firing of a revolver volley in the outskirts of the town. For purposes of action a great crowd of Moslem hooligans (called *Dadash*) had been collected, and were well armed. The German Consul was personally taking part in this peculiar kind of out-door sport, to which only Moslems had been invited both from the villages and the town. A distraction of this nature, taken part in by the Moslems, has created a conviction among Armenians that the hour for massacres is close at hand.

Document No. 129, under date 6/19th January, 1914, is a telegram from M. Kulkevitch, the Chargé d'Affaires of the Russian Embassy at Constantinople, addressed to M. Sazonoff, wherein that official makes certain observations on the proposals of the Turkish Ambassador

at Petrograd, which the latter submitted to M. Sazonoff as a condition to the final agreement on the Reform Scheme. (See Document No. 127.)

After pointing out the inexpediency of the three points propounded by Fakhreddin Bey, M. Kulkevitch concludes with the remark that the Turkish Ambassador must be ignorant of the details of the matter, and that he does not realise the problem. And in order to prove his assertions, the Russian Chargé d'Affaires alludes to Articles 80 and 81 of the Law of Vilayets, promulgated by Turkey in 1913, whereby provision is made for the financial necessities of educational and ecclesiastical institutions of the various communities. He further quotes the powers of the General Provincial Councils of the vilayets to raise funds for such institutions—powers which were conferred on the Councils by the above-mentioned law of 1913.

Document No. 130 is a telegram, dated 6/19th January, 1914, from M. Isvolsky, the Russian Ambassador in Paris, to M. Sazonoff, whereby the Ambassador informs him that the French Foreign Minister is in complete accord with his (M. Sazonoff's) proposals that the problem of the Turkish loan, and all points connected with the 4 per cent. increase of the Turkish import duties, should be discussed and solved between the Powers of the Triple Entente by virtue of their complete solidarity of interests; and that the object, if attained, would greatly strengthen the actions of the Triple Entente at Constantinople. M. Isvolsky proceeds to state that M. Doumergue, the French Foreign Minister, has explicitly informed the Turkish Minister in Paris that the French Government will give its financial support to Turkey only on one condition: that the Ottoman Government will pledge itself and give guarantees that under no circumstances should the loan raised in France be spent on new armaments, or for aggressive purposes. Also, the Porte must bind itself to avoid spending sums on enterprises recommended to Turkey by the German military missions; but that the money must be employed towards facilitating the Armenian reforms, and so on.

(To be continued.)

The Situation in Armenia.

The crisis at its height.—Viewing the position of our countrymen in their native land, in fact in Asia Minor as a whole, and the conditions which surround a most difficult situation, one can but draw the conclusion that the Turks are throwing overboard all arguments of "military necessity," or "measures of self-defence," and have declared war in a frank and determined manner on the defenceless Armenian population throughout their Empire. Moreover, the public threats of the Allied Powers and the remonstrances made to the Porte by the representatives of neutral States seem to have failed utterly to achieve any result.

Gloomy accounts of partial massacres and wholesale deportations of unoffending Armenians into the deserts of Mesopotamia continue to be received from authoritative sources with tragic monotony. The collective meaning of these reports confirms the view that the Turks do not even pretend to justify their anti-Armenian campaign on any strategical grounds, but the continuance of their policy has but one end to serve—the extermination of the Armenian race in the easiest way possible. And this frenzied fit of Turkish fanaticism is being enacted in the full gaze of the civilised world, before the very eyes of the diplomatic representatives of the United States, Bulgaria, Roumania, Greece and other countries. Of the brutal complicity of Germany and Austria-Hungary in the matter, the less said by us the better. Their officials and responsible writers have publicly stated that it is a matter of internal administration of the Turkish Empire, and that we can expect no mercy from them for the reason that Armenians do not sympathise with the glorious Germano-Turkish alliance nor with their ideals of civilisation. If the neutral States are not in a position to act, they might at least do something in the way of denouncing publicly the criminal aloofness deliberately adopted by Germany, trumpeted by herself as in the van of civilisation, towards the avowed extermination of an entire Christian race.

The only possible means of combating the situation—a suggestion.—The problem of saving the remnants of the Armenian population in Turkey is one whose solution demands extreme urgency. All attempts towards this end have so far failed dismally. There is, however, one course which, if carried out, might prove successful, and that course is intimately associated with the power and the honour of Russia. *Horizon*, the representative Armenian daily paper at Tiflis, is but voicing the feelings uppermost in every Armenian mind when it suggests in an editorial that a request should be submitted to the Commander-in-Chief of the Russian armies, through the medium of the Viceroy of the Caucasus, that His Majesty the Czar should be begged to direct the Caucasian army to take a strong offensive in Armenia, and once for all put an end to Turkish barbarities. And towards the carrying out of this work of emancipation it is further suggested that all Armenian soldiers in the Russian army (1) should be concentrated on the Transcaucasian front and placed under Russian and Armenian commanders for the projected advance. To-day all Armenians are filled with the one desire to exact reparation from the Turks for their diabolical acts, and their soldiers scattered far away in the Russian forces not unnaturally nourish the same feelings, and

(1) An authoritative statement placed the number of Armenian soldiers in the Russian armies last January at 80,000. Out of this number, some 30,000 were engaged on the Austro-German front, while 50,000 were on the Caucasian front. Since then further classes of soldiers have been directed to join the colours, and the above number has probably been doubled.

would like to be instrumental in saving their own brethren. An act of this nature would serve the cause of Russia as well as rescue the Armenian vilayets from further devastation.

A further expedient suggested by the same paper is the arming and equipping of a far greater number of Armenian Volunteers, who would form the vanguard of the regular army of the Caucasus in this campaign of emancipation. The Russians themselves know what excellent service the Armenian Volunteer contingents have done so far, so without in the least interfering with the strategical plans of the Russian Commander-in-Chief, and judging the case on its own merits, the proposal seems practical and apparently offers no great difficulties. With a very slight shifting and re-arrangement of military units, the fate of Armenians in the six vilayets at least might undergo a decisive modification for the better, particularly at the present moment when, with the winter months in sight, any delay might sound the doom of our compatriots.

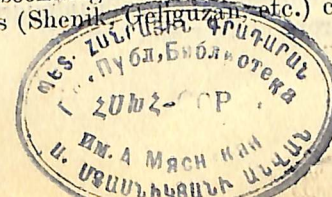
The third Russian advance into Turkish Armenia.—From the scanty information furnished by the Caucasian Army Headquarters, it is only possible to follow the military movements on the Armenian front in broad outline. The latest *communiqué* (Sept. 22nd) makes it clear that the Russians have dislodged the Turks from the western ridges of Charian Dag, and have moved towards Khinis, one of the advanced defences of the fortress of Erzeroum. The capture of Yonjolu and Russelangeduk on the Murad Tchai (Euphrates) would tend to show a flanking movement to drive the Turks into the hills which begin almost in the outskirts of Bitlis and, extending through Mush, join the Sassoun range, which is the eastern block of the Taurus. From the nature of the ground it would seem that no great effort is required to isolate Bitlis by an advance through the plain of Mush. In the neighbourhood of Van, Arjish has been re-occupied on the north of the Lake, and in the south the Armenian Volunteers have cleared the Turks out of Vostan, and are gradually crossing the Ardos range towards Moks and Shatakh.

The refugee hordes round Etchmiadzin and Erivan.—After the exodus of a quarter of a million of Armenians from the Van, Melazgerd and Alashkerd regions in the first week of August, the Russo-Armenian forces have been again gradually clearing the Turks and Kurds out of those provinces. These unfortunate refugees, who took between 11 and 17 days on the road, according to the distance they had to walk to the Russian frontier, reached Etchmiadzin and Erivan in a most deplorable condition. Exhausted and broken down through the trials they had undergone since April, they had to start on this flight at short notice. Harried by the Turkish army and by marauding bands of Kurds on their journey, the refugees arrived at their destination to find little accommodation provided for them. All measures which were humanly possible to welcome this seething mass of humanity had been taken at Etchmiadzin, but the strain was beyond anticipation.

"The Fraternal Aid" Committee, under the presidency of the Catholicos, and the Medical Corps were fully represented; while the National Bureau of Tiflis, and the Armenian Committees of Moscow, Bakou and other places, as well as various societies and unions, had sent men and women workers. All these tended the sick, the exhausted, the motherless children, and yet with all this fraternal aid tendered by the Russian Armenians, the supply fell far short of the need. Cholera, dysentery and spotted fever soon showed themselves in a virulent form; while the scarcity of commodities in the Caucasus and local difficulties curtailed the measure of succour that could be given. About 20,000 orphan children have already been cared for; improvised hospitals have been opened in many localities; hygienic measures have been adopted to stamp out the epidemics through which the figure of mortality reached 200 a day early in September. Trainloads of flour, sugar, tea, drugs, clothing and other commodities have been offered by Armenians throughout Russia. Prof. Kishkin, the plenipotentiary of the Federation of Russian Zemstvos, who was sent to Etchmiadzin to enquire into the condition of these refugees, describes the situation as lamentable, and has asked for £50,000 for immediate needs.

As an instance of the virile character of the people who have survived persecution, massacre and threatened extermination for centuries, it may be noted here that the latest news from Tiflis relates that, as the districts over the border are being reconquered from the Turks, the able-bodied men and women among the refugees, who are able to take the journey, are returning again to rebuild their ruined homes and start life again. They express their infinite gratitude for all that has been done to relieve their distress, but declare that they would be happy in their beloved homes, however hopelessly they may have been devastated. Some 50,000 of them have already returned to Van and Alashkerd. It will be a question now of enabling these hardy sons of the soil to run up huts as soon as possible as a shelter against the rigours of the Armenian winter which is near at hand.

Heroic struggle in Sassoun.—There seems to be little doubt now that the Turks have decided to subdue Sassoun, where the inhabitants have been holding out since May last. Great reinforcements have been flung all around the district so as to cut all communication with the outside world. The 15,000 Armenians thus besieged have apparently been strengthened by several other thousands who had escaped from the plains for safety. The refugees from here who fled to the Caucasus relate that the lower valleys of Sassoun have already been overrun by the Turkish army, and that the few old people who had been left in their homes had been massacred. By the lower valleys of Sassoun is meant a cluster of seven or eight large villages which extend roughly from the slopes of the Andak mountain to those of Meleto, descending into the basin of the Tigris. It is obvious that these villages (Shenik, Gelliguzan, etc.) could hardly have been held



for long against a regular force. The report further says that Goriun and Tigran, the two brave leaders, have already fallen in the unequal fight for the defence of their homes; and that Roupen, Vahan and others have entrenched themselves in the almost inaccessible crags of Andak and Meleto. There is always plenty of food to be had in Sassoun—honey, nuts, rye bread and even millet. All, however, depends on the supply of ammunition, and this is made locally by the people by their own methods and with material obtained on the spot.

Armenians on the march to the deserts.—Some private letters from Aleppo, written in the first week of August, describe the town as full of Armenians driven from their homes in Cilicia and southern Armenia. In July about 40,000 of these people had passed through on their way to Deir-el-zor, and the present influx represented the second large caravan. All the Christians of Aleppo, among whom were Armenians, Syrians, Chaldeans and others, showed great sympathy and rendered help to these suffering victims of Turkish brutality. The trying conditions under which these wretched people are compelled to travel, it is heart-breaking to read. We give the following account, by Fraulein Beatrice Rohner, a Swiss lady of Basle, who was an actual witness of the march in the Syrian desert. Her account is published in the *Sonnenaufgang*, the organ of the *Deutscher Hilfsbund für Christliches Liebeswerk im Orient*, and our extract is taken from the *Basler Anzeiger* of August 23rd:—

“At Deir-el-zor, a large town in the desert, about six days drive from Aleppo, we saw a big Khan, all the rooms, the roof and the verandahs of which were crowded with Armenians, composed mostly of women and children, with a few old men. They had slept on their blankets wherever they could find any shade.

“These were the Armenians of Furnuz, lying in the region of Zeitoun. A little girl, whom I had known before, gave me the following account: One day Turkish gendarmes came to the village and arrested a great number of men to make soldiers of them. To the rest of the people four hours’ notice was given to leave their homes, with permission to take with them what they could. On the expiration of the time limit, all were forced to evacuate their homes. At the beginning of their march, while they were still in their mountains, they fared tolerably well, and though provisions were scanty, the suffering was not great. The Turks had promised to supply them with bread, but all they got was 150 grammes of *bulgur* (ground corn). It was under such circumstances that after a march of four weeks they had reached Deir-el-zor. They were anxious to know what was going to happen to them. They had no money, and the Turks would not give them any food. We had two houses at Furnuz, said the little girl, but they were offered to Turkish immigrants. . . . We are suffering much from hunger and thirst.”

Fraulein Rohner then goes on to say:—

“For these mountaineers the desert climate is terrible. On the next day I reached a large Armenian camp of goat-skin tents, but most of the unfortunate people were sleeping out in the sun on the burning sands. The Turks had given them a day’s rest on account of the large number of sick. It was evident from their clothing that these people had been well-to-do; they were natives of Geben, another village near Zeitoun, and were led by their religious head. It was a daily occurrence for five or six of the children of these people to die by the wayside. They were just burying a young woman, the mother of a little girl nine years of age, and they besought me to take this little girl with me.

“Those who have no experience of the desert cannot picture to themselves the sufferings entailed by such a journey—a hilly desert without shade, marching over rough and rugged rocks, unable to satisfy one’s scorching thirst from the muddy waters of the Euphrates, which winds its course along in close proximity.

“On the next day I met another camp of these Zeitoun Armenians. There were the same indescribable sufferings, the same accounts of misery—‘Why do they not kill us once for all?’ asked they. ‘For days we have no water to drink, and our children are crying for water. At night the Arabs attack us; they steal our bedding, our clothes that we have been able to get together; they carry away by force our girls, and outrage our women. If any of us are unable to walk, the convoy of gendarmes beat us. Some of our women threw themselves down from the rocks into the Euphrates in order to save their honour—some of these with their infants in their arms.’

“Further up to the north, in the Amanus Mountains, we met another convoy, these being the Armenians of Hadjin (Cilicia). They were just at the beginning of their journey, and were not suffering; they had some horses, camels and even carriages, but how long will this relative well-being continue when they have once reached the desert?”

The *Journal de Genève*, in its issue of September 4th, quotes some paragraphs from the same organ. Here is an extract from a letter from Marash, dated June 4th:—“We have just discovered fifteen babies. Three of these are already dead—they were all terribly emaciated, and looked miserable when they were picked up. Oh! if we could write all we see!”

Such are some of the evidences from Swiss and German eye-witnesses, and published in a German weekly, the *Sonnenaufgang*, which is published on the sacred soil of the Fatherland under the eyes of the German censor. And if there are still any who doubt the accuracy of the reports which have been reaching us from a variety of sources, Fraulein Rohner’s account should be sufficient to dispel such doubts.

One of Freedom's Hereditary Champions.

The Right Hon. George William Erskine Russell is the youngest son of the late Lord Charles Russell, who was the sixth son of the sixth Duke of Bedford. Born in London in 1853, he was educated at Harrow and Oxford, where he was a Scholar and Prizeman of University College. He took his degree of B.A. in 1876, and of M.A. in 1880, and in 1899 was made an Honorary LL.D. of St. Andrew's. From 1880 to 1895 his life was spent in politics, to which by family tradition and hereditary instinct he had a natural bent. In 1880 he was elected Member of Parliament for Aylesbury, and represented that constituency for five years, during the last three of which he was Parliamentary Secretary of the Local Government Board. From 1892 to 1895 he was Member for North Bedfordshire, and was appointed by Mr. Gladstone first to be Under-Secretary for India, and for the last year of that period to the Under-Secretaryship of the Home Department. With his defeat at the General Election of 1895 his Parliamentary career ended, but he continued his connection with active public life. He was chosen as one of the Aldermen of the first London County Council in 1889, and re-elected at each of the four succeeding elections.

Mr. Russell's name and work as a literary man are probably known to a great many more people than are any of his achievements in the sphere of politics, though some who heard or read his speeches on the platform or in the House of Commons could not but regret his withdrawal from Parliamentary life. His style as a speaker is marked with the graces of a scholar and the fullness (in the Baconian sense) of a well-read man; but its most impressive characteristic is its courageous earnestness, which makes his audience not only believe what he believes, but also feel what he feels, and inspires them with high ideals and noble enthusiasm for great and noble causes.

His writings are characterised with the same qualities as his speeches, but they are tempered with a genial humour which constitutes much of their charm. This is not the place for a criticism or even a full catalogue of his literary productions; but readers of *Ararat*, who are not familiar with them, will be grateful for the advice to read the two series of *Collections and Recollections*, *A Pocketful of Sixpences*, *Sketches and Snapshots*, *The Household of Faith*, and his biographies of Mr. Gladstone, of Edward King, Bishop of Lincoln, and of Canon McColl.

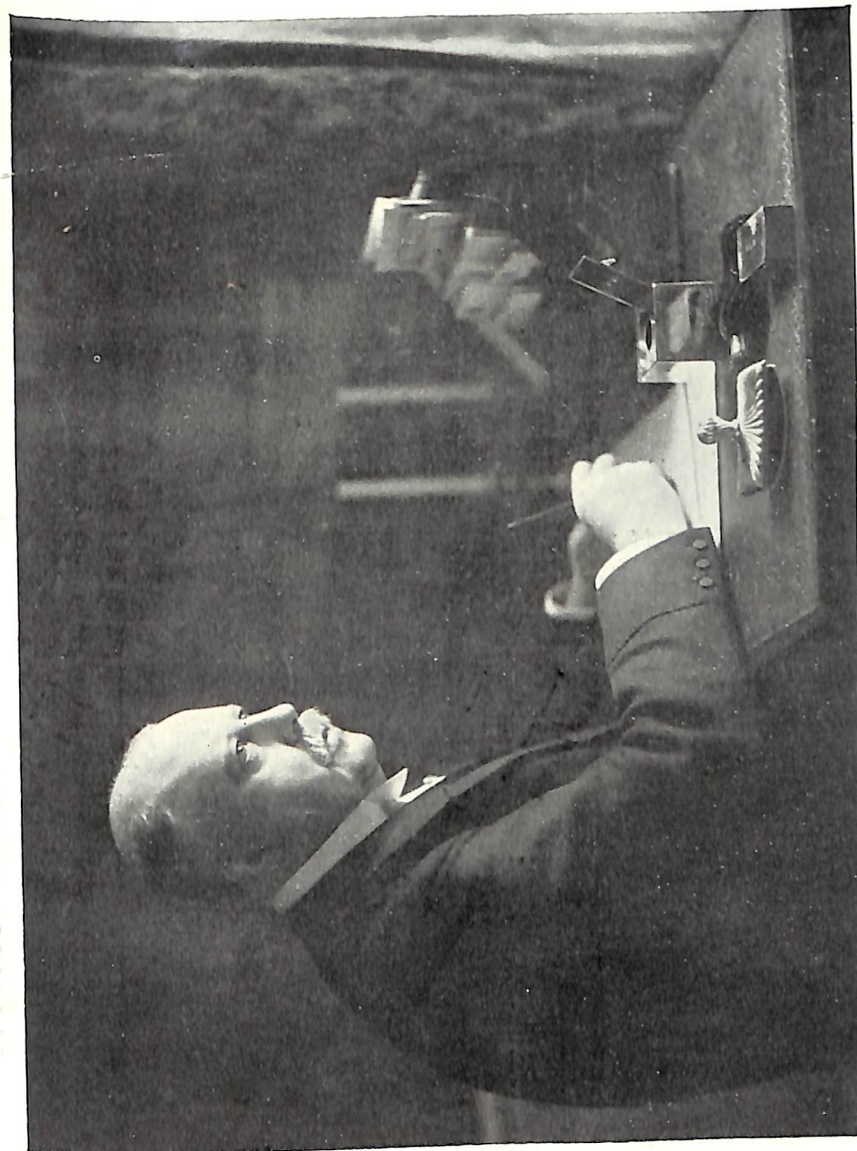


Photo. by Elliott & Fry, Ltd.

The Right Honble. George William Erskine Russell.



In the above sketch there is, perhaps, nothing that obviously suggests any reason for the publication of this article in a magazine devoted to Armenian questions. But to all who have taken part in, or followed with interest, the relations of this country with the recent history of Armenia, the name of George Russell is familiar, and his noble and fearless advocacy of the sacred cause of the persecuted people of Armenia is held in grateful appreciation. He is a member of the British Armenia and the Ægean Islands Committees, and is also President of the newly-formed Armenian Society. Those who are old enough to remember the glorious crusade which Gladstone led against the atrocities of which the Turkish Government was guilty in its suppression of the Bulgarian insurrection, know that among his keenest and most whole-hearted supporters was the nephew of Lord John Russell, to whom Moore had addressed the lines—

“Like the boughs of that laurel, by Delphi’s decree
Set apart for the Fane and its service divine,
So the branches that spring from the old Russell tree
Are by Liberty claimed for the use of her shrine.”

As Mr. George Russell tells us in his *Fifteen Chapters of Autobiography*,—to which we advise our readers to go for a fuller and worthier acquaintance with the man and his work—he felt the hereditary impulse which constrained all Russells to fight for Freedom, the love of which was “in his blood.” The same impulse, the same passion for Freedom and hatred of injustice and cruelty, heightened in this case by intense love of the Christian religion, have made George Russell one of the most eloquent and fervid champions of the cause of Armenia. When the “Liberal Forward Movement” was formed in 1895, he was unanimously chosen to be its Chairman, and he led the Liberals, who were disgusted with the *fainéant* policy of Lord Rosebery, in their efforts to arouse England to a recognition of her duty to Armenia both on political and humanitarian grounds. Never since that day has he once declined to champion the cause which is to him—as man and as Christian—doubly sacred, and his latest utterances on the subject are instinct with the same spirit in which he wrote, nearly twenty years ago, that thrilling leaflet, *The Offence of the Cross*. Let us conclude with a quotation from it: “The Mohammedan Power which perpetrated this Satanic crime (the massacre at Ourfa on Dec. 19, 1895), and has sacrificed, amid circumstances of equal horror, one hundred thousand Armenian lives, is the Power which the ‘Concert of Europe’ now bids us help to uphold upon its blood-cemented throne. Our answer, as Christians and Freemen, is—by God’s help, NEVER! . . . Our plain duty is, at whatever cost to ourselves, to deliver our fellow-Christians from the infernal rule of the great anti-Christian Power; and the inexorable call of conscience bids us go forward in the sacred cause of Religion, Humanity, and Freedom.”

Life's Devotion to Armenia.

The whirlpool of horrors, which was intended to suck into its vortex all of Armenian race, has drawn with them some of other nationalities who clung with tenacity to their labours consecrated to Armenia. It is with deep sorrow that we have to chronicle the death of Mrs. Raynolds, wife of Dr. G. C. Raynolds, the veteran head of the American Mission at Van. Her death occurred under tragic circumstances at Tiflis, whither she was carried in the general Armenian exodus from Van, flying from the expected wreckage of all that she had held most dear in her life. We are indebted to a correspondent, "A.S.S.," who knew her and her life-work well in that ancient capital of Armenia, for the following sympathetic account:—

When Van was evacuated towards the end of July and all Armenians were directed to withdraw into the Transcaucasian region, the American Board and the Swiss missionaries also decided to leave Van in order to escape from the fury of Moslem barbarity which was expected to burst upon the town. Mrs. Raynolds was accommodated in an ox-cart, and during her journey she fell out of the cart and fractured her leg. She was taken to Tiflis, where her needs were attended to in a hospital; but the shock to her system produced by the flight and the attendant horrors, to which was now superadded her physical suffering brought about by her accident, was beyond her powers to withstand at her age, and she succumbed in the last week of August. To add to the tragedy of the occurrence, Dr. Raynolds, who had been to the United States with the object of collecting funds for the establishment of a College at Van, reached Tiflis a few days after the death of his wife.

Mrs. Raynolds had worked in Van for about 45 years. A true Christian, she had devoted her life to missionary work in that town and no Armenian who knew them there will ever forget the part husband and wife played in that massacre-stricken place in the nineties of the last century, when their presence and whole-hearted aid in relieving distress and poverty were viewed as the working of divine providence. She was known as "the little mother" by the thousands of Armenian orphans who had been the object of her care and her tenderness. In her help to these Armenian orphans, her practical foresight as to their future welfare was never absent, as the following instance which came under my own observation will show. After a long day's ride through the mountains of Garjikan, south of Lake Van, I arrived at the Armenian village of Pelu. The cleanest and happiest home in the village, where I alighted, was that of a recently married couple, both of whom had been brought up by the efforts of Mrs. Raynolds. They narrated their history to me: they had both been left orphans by the massacres of 1895-96; they had been brought up by Dr. and Mrs. Raynolds and educated in the missionary schools for many years, and

they had been married not very long ago, when Mrs. Raynolds provided the bride with a small dowry and necessary articles for starting a home, while the young fellow was furnished with a pair of oxen, a plough and enough capital to begin the economic life of the family. Such was the blending of Christianity with practical humanity which Mrs. Raynolds had made the aim of her life. Her resourcefulness in times of crisis and her personal example were such as to inspire confidence in those around her.

Another worthy American lady, Mrs. Ussher, the young wife of the medical head of the Mission, also fell a victim, but to typhus, during the troublous times that Van had recently gone through. Dr. and Mrs. Ussher have been in Van for the last fifteen years or so, and the exceptional services rendered by them, as well as by other members of the American Mission, in relieving distress and suffering are beyond praise and justly appreciated.

The deepest sympathies of the Armenians of Van in particular, and of all Armenians in general, go to Drs. Raynolds and Ussher in their cruel bereavement. During the past twenty years these unselfish Americans have practically shared our sorrows and disappointments, our sufferings and persecutions, and have even been partakers of such joys as have come our way. We are profoundly grateful to them for the energy and aid they have brought to us in the acutest period of our history; and we expect, when the night is past and the light begins to dawn, that they will be co-sharers with us in the rewards to which they are entitled in full measure.

Armenian Refugees' Relief Fund.

There is no abatement in the distress among those of our people who, in losing their all, have saved their lives by crossing the Russian frontiers; on the contrary, the distress is as acute as anything human imagination can conceive, and the number of these forlorn souls has reached fully a quarter of a million. Though we cannot lessen a jot of their agony of mind in being torn from their nearest and dearest, and in being cast on the world as waifs, we can still administer to their material needs to keep body and soul together towards that day when it will be possible to reinstate in their ancient homes what remains of them, so that they may once more start afresh their saddened lives and build up Armenia anew.

Though the stream of charity towards the Caucasus is flowing from many directions, the great bulk of the funds which has hitherto been available for the relief of this immense mass of humanity has come from the Armenians themselves, both from Russia and from the Armenian colonies scattered throughout the world. It was their

primary duty to succour their own kith and kin, and they have done and are doing all they can, but their efforts are wholly inadequate. Other nations have also contributed, and our gratitude to them is immense, but we feel that the Armenian cause has not been presented to them in its true light, and if this were done, the sympathy that has been spontaneously evoked on behalf of Belgians, Poles, and Serbians would undoubtedly be extended towards our people who rank equally among the Allies, though not technically so; and we doubt if their distress and agony can be surpassed by any other nation.

With the gradual awakening of the British public to the needs of Armenia which is distinctly perceptible, we feel sure that their innate sympathy for suffering humanity will find its natural vent towards the organisation, under distinguished patronage, of a Fund specially for Armenians. If such a course were adopted we would feel content that all that human effort could do had been done; while our trust in British aid is so sure that we would have no doubt as to the ultimate outcome of such a step.

The following is a statement of our account since our last issue :—

	£	s.	d.
<i>Receipts :—</i>			
Armenian Colony in Calcutta (India)	1,200	0	0
Hon. Sir C. P. Chater, K.C.M.G. (Hong Kong) ..	100	16	11
Armenian Colony in Java (4th instalment) ..	20	15	9
Cadbury Bros., Ltd.	1	1	0
Mr. M. Mugurian (2nd donation)	1	0	0
John Buchanan & Bros., Ltd.	0	10	0
Mrs. W. Barrington (2nd donation)	0	2	6
Miss Potter Lewis	0	2	6
Collected by Mrs. Diana Agabeg Apcar—			
By sale of Patriotic Postcards in Calcutta ..	9	10	0
By collections in Yokohama	5	3	4
Total received in September	1,339	2	0
Amount previously received	7,420	0	11
Grand total	£8,759	2	11
	£	s.	d.
<i>Expenditure :—</i>			
Remitted to the Catholicos to August 31st ..	7,310	0	0
Remitted during September	1,200	0	0
Balance in Bank	249	2	11
Grand total	£8,759	2	11

It will thus be seen that the total sum remitted through our Association to His Holiness the Catholicos now amounts to £8,510.

The details of Mrs. Diana A. Apcar's collections are as follows :—

By sale of Patriotic Postcards in Calcutta—

Mr. A. G. Apcar (2)	100 Rupees.
45 at R. 1/- each	45 ..
	<hr/>
	145 Rs.—£9 10 0

By collections in Yokohama—

Sonnie	25.00 Yen.
Alpha Beta	15.00 ..
X. Y. Z.	8.00 ..
C. V. P.	2.50 ..
	<hr/>
	50.50 Yen—£5 3 4

The Armenian Red Cross and Refugee Fund.

Private letters and newspapers which arrive daily from the Caucasus contain accounts of atrocities so appalling perpetrated by Turks on helpless Armenians, that the achievements of the Red Sultan seem petty compared with them. To read of massacres and deportations which are on a scale unparalleled even in Turkish history makes one's blood run cold with horror and then boil with indignation. That the civilised world, in particular all the neutral nations, can look on and keep silent is a sign of the times too sad for words. While our deepest and most heartfelt sympathy is with the sufferers and their compatriots, all we can do is to implore all who may read these lines to send a contribution, or to beg one from someone else for this fund that our hands may be strengthened in the attempt to rescue the survivors of the Armenian race from perishing of sickness and want. There are 200,000 destitute refugees now in the Caucasus. Thanks to the kind co-operation of H.B.M.'s Consul-General at Moscow, who hands our contributions to the Mayor of Tiflis for the local relief committees, all the money we can collect reaches these poor people as soon as possible.

Respecting the £400 sent on July 29th for the Archbishop and the Armenian Governor of Van, the Consul-General wrote on Sept. 9th : "In view of the uncertainty regarding the military position at Van,

I thought it better to send the draft to the Mayor of Tiflis and to request him to arrange for its safe transmission to Van. Accordingly on the 9th August a draft for 5,678.50 Roubles was sent to Tiflis. For some weeks no answer was received from Tiflis, and I therefore telegraphed to the Mayor to ask if the money had come to hand. I have to-day received his reply to the effect that the money has reached its destination and that he was sending the official receipt." On Sept. 10th our Hon. Treasurer cabled a further sum of £400 for relief of the refugees. In all £1,800 has now been cabled out.

The following sums have been received since we reported last. From Viscount Bryce, the Misses Crane, £10 each; the Misses Allfree, the Armenian Young Men's Club, Manchester, £7 each; W. H. Welshman, the Misses Walker, D. G. Gulbenkian, Lord Lyell, Lady Lyell, A. Paragamian, £5 each; Miss Dayman, £4; Henry Gurney, Miss Pickard, each £3 3s.; Miss L. M. Redpath, £2 10s.; Mrs. A. M. Main, the Misses Bellairs, Major-Gen. Dun, each £2 2s.; B. R. Balfour, Esq., D.L., Miss Muriel Wills, Staff of District Goods Manager's Office, L.N.W.R., London Road, Manchester, each £2; Miss Isabel Heywood, £3 1s.; Mrs. Bazett, £1 11s. 6d.; Misses A. & M. Glazier, £1 10s.; Miss Clark, Miss C. E. Landor, W. Roe, C. Badcock, Mrs. S. D. Wills, each £1 1s.; E. H. Visiak, H. Strachey, Rev. T. Stringer, S. H. Halford, Mrs. Mertens, Mrs. T. Calderwood, J. T. Mitchell, Sir Alexander Simpson, Miss Jane Drutt, Miss Mackey, W. Edgar Enman, Mrs. Rothschild, Misses Manley, W. Dick, each £1; and many smaller amounts. The Fund now totals £2,390.

We wish to thank in particular a lady who has had collecting boxes made to hand round at workshops and factories, etc., in her neighbourhood, with circulars about our work. While wishing her all success we should be grateful for offers of such help from responsible persons in other towns.

A private letter from a nurse who was at the mission station at Van gives a terrible account of the sufferings from fever of the missionaries and their charges. The aid to be had was altogether insufficient.

The following are a few extracts from some of the letters recently received: From the Superior of a Religious Order: "I can assure you of the prayers of the community for Armenia and for the work of your Association." "A harvest time gift for the unhappy Armenians." "I feel so thankful *someone* is helping those terribly tried and persecuted people, perhaps the very most cruelly used in all this fearful time." "We hope enclosed may help a little to alleviate the great sufferings of these poor down-trodden folk, the Armenians." "With earnest wishes for the prosperity of your terribly needed work." "This amount was contributed by the St. Barnabas' Church Scouts, while in camp, for this object at the boys' own suggestion." "The

papers you send show what great need there is in Armenia . . . these people *must* be helped." "The news from Armenia is indeed heart-breaking. I think about it till I feel quite ill and can't sleep." Mrs. B was much distressed to read of the present unhappy state of the Armenian people . . . she would be glad to hear any news and begs a reply, registering letter for safety. . . . She prays day and night for this cause." "I regret it being so small a sum, but am only one of the women workers." "Trusting that funds are coming in for this most deserving cause." (This from a clergyman.) "One might almost feel as if it were not so strange these people should suffer if no one troubled about them, but when you have expended so much effort it seems as if bare justice demanded some relief from their sufferings—some answer to your prayer!" These are only a few among the many expressions of sympathy.

In conclusion we beg earnestly for increased support. Perhaps others will send a harvest offering to our Fund. Will the working parties, schools and other friends who so kindly made warm woolly garments for Armenian volunteers and refugees last winter please note that we shall be thankful for all they can send us. The number of people who want this help has increased fourfold.

Contributions to the Fund may be sent to the Hon. Secretary, Miss E. J. Robinson, at 35a, Elsham Road, Kensington, London, W., to whom also all communications respecting the Fund should be addressed.

EMILY J. ROBINSON.

Local Jottings.

RANGOON AND CALCUTTA.

In commenting last month on the contributions sent to the Armenian Refugees' Relief Fund by the Armenian colony in Burma, we commended their method of raising funds by means of concerts, and said a few words about their programme of one such concert which had just reached us.

We have since received further particulars of this Concert, which was honoured by the presence of Sir Charles Fox, the Chief Justice, who showed his appreciation by remaining till the programme had been fully worked through. The proceeds of the Concert realised for our Relief Fund the sum of Rs. 400.

We take the following account of the entertainment from a local Rangoon paper:—

ARMENIAN RELIEF FUND.

A BENEFIT CONCERT.

An enjoyable concert was given at the Armenian Club on Saturday night, 17th July, in aid of the Armenian Refugees' Fund. A good musical programme was arranged for the occasion. The concert was held in the Dance Hall of the Club, which was tastefully decorated with the flags of the Allies, whilst a photograph of King George occupied a prominent position above the stage. The evening commenced with a pianoforte duet by the Misses Edgar, who were loudly applauded. The audience appreciated the rendering of the selection: "Salut d'Amor" by Miss Violet Nahapiet. She was encored and in response danced to the music of the last piece, which was played by Miss Rose Nahapiet, her elder sister. This was followed by a solo from Mr. Aviet Agabeg, after which Miss Carrie Hancock recited "A Drunkard's Dream," for which she was heartily applauded. The first part of the programme was closed with the rendering of "Thora," by Mr. B. P. Seth, who later on gave "The Scientific Man." A feature of the second half was the rendering of "Little Grey Home in the West" by Miss Violet Nahapiet; and a recitation by Mr. W. Shircore. After the recitation Mr. Shircore thanked all those present for their presence, and for their sympathy with the Armenian Refugees' Relief Fund; a sum of about Rs. 9,000, he said, had already been collected to relieve the dire sufferings of the Armenian refugees—and this was a great response—which had already met the appeal. He particularly thanked those who had taken part in the concert: Misses Violet Nahapiet (who though only eight years old, possesses remarkable talent, and held her audience on each appearance) and Carrie Hancock; and concluded by thanking Mr. Joakim, the Hon. Sec., for his energy and perseverance. After the concert, dancing took place to the strains of music supplied by Mr. Moniz's orchestra and was kept up till the early hours of Sunday morning.

The Armenian Relief Fund (Calcutta) continues its progress, and is beginning to tap the more important English firms, who are giving generously. Apart from a large contribution sent direct by an Armenian resident, the local Fund has now reached nearly Rs. 50,000, and we wish it further success—the City of Palaces should not be content till it has more than doubled this amount.

We have published hitherto eight lists of contributions. We are asked to publish the three following lists:—

9th List.—Amount previously acknowledged, Rs. 38,697-6; A. S. Crete (from Kalipahari), Rs. 100; Hanipada Nayoke (from Kalipahari), Re. 1; G. A. Roberts (from Kalipahari), Rs. 2; Mrs. Georgian (from Kalipahari), Rs. 15; A. H. Guise (from Toposi), Rs. 3; C. C. Hyrapiet (from Ondal), Re. 1; J. Mackertich (from Ondal), Rs. 5; M. A. Crete (from Pandaveswar), Rs. 25; "Friend" (from Rampur Haut), Rs. 2; An Armenian (from Rampur Haut), Rs. 2; J. A. Arathoon (from Jamalpore), Rs. 5; C. Jacob (from Jamalpore), Re. 1; M. J. Mackertich (from Mokameh), Rs. 10; the Armenian community of Allahabad:—J. J. Hyrapiet, Rs. 20; M. J. Arathoon, Rs. 10; P. Gasper, Rs. 5; T. R. David, Rs. 25; J. A. Jordan, Rs. 5; A. N. Peters, Rs. 3; Finhave, Re. 1; T. W. V., Rs. 5; C. N. Carapiet, Rs. 5; M. N. Carapiet, Rs. 5; Nobody, Re. 1; Anonymous, Re. 1; G. Anthony, Rs. 2; T. R. Banerji, Re. 1; J. C. Libria, Rs. 3; G. W., Rs. 4; E. Blanchett, Rs. 2; Miss Peters, Rs. 3; Mrs. Anthony, Rs. 2; Miss A. Nazar, Rs. 2. Total, Rs. 105. Grand total, Rs. 38,974.

10th List.—Amount previously acknowledged, Rs. 38,974; Messrs. Bird and Co., Rs. 1,500; Messrs. Hoare Miller and Co., Rs. 1,000; Messrs. Macneill and Co., Rs. 1,000; Messrs. Butto Kristo Paul and Co., Rs. 50; Mr. J. S. Creet (from Jhalda), Rs. 10; Miss Billing, Rs. 25; "Friend" (from Santal Parganahs), Rs. 25; W. H. Nexons, Rs. 25; "A Friend," Rs. 100; Miss Irene Crete, Rs. 100; Mrs. Effie Raha (from Motihari), Rs. 10; Dr. G. D. Hope, Rs. 20; G. H. Manuel (from Chittagong), Rs. 5; Messrs. G. I. M. Gregory and Co. (from Dacca), Rs. 10; Edward Thornton, Rs. 25; and A. M. Hovsep (from Jhalda), Rs. 50. Total, Rs. 42,929.

11th List.—Amount previously acknowledged, Rs. 42,929-14. Messrs. Birkmyre Bros., Rs. 1,500; Messrs. Mackinnon Mackenzie and Co., Rs. 1,500; Messrs. Burn and Co., Rs. 1,500; Messrs. Shaw Wallace and Co., Rs. 1,000; Messrs. Ernsthausen, Ltd., Rs. 1,000; Percy Feilman, Rs. 100; T. Arathoon (from Cawnpore), Rs. 25; Simon Owen (from Cawnpore), Rs. 3; An Armenian Friend (from Cawnpore), Rs. 3; A Friend (from Cawnpore), Re. 1; H. C. Mallick (from Cawnpore), Rs. 8; H. K. Tondow (from Cawnpore), Rs. 4; S. A. Banerjee (from Cawnpore), Rs. 2; A Friend (from Cawnpore), Rs. 2; A Friend (from Cawnpore), Re. 1; S. Niestior (from Cawnpore), Rs. 2; Miss A. E. Gasper (from Cawnpore), Rs. 2; Mrs. Sarkies (from Tundla), Rs. 2; C. D. Sarkisian (from Buxar), Rs. 5; S. J. Arathoon (from Buxar), Rs. 2; E. H. (from Gya), Rs. 2. Total, Rs. 49,578-14.

All contributions to the above Fund are being received by the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. A. Stephen, 2, Camac Street, Calcutta.

The Awakening of the British Press.

Lord Bryce's Striking Action.

We were pleased to give quotations last month from the Press of this country bearing on events in Armenia. It is a satisfaction to feel that interest in Armenia, which was restricted to a very limited number of organs, is becoming more pronounced. We give the following important reproductions.

The *Daily News and Leader* of September 22nd gives the full text of the letter of Lord Bryce to Mr. Aneurin Williams, M.P., as published in New York, with a short editorial of its own in the following terms :

THE LOWEST DEPTH.

America, and the neutral nations generally, cannot affect for their own credit to disregard the appeal made to them by Lord Bryce to-day. The human imagination is fortunately unable seriously to entertain the full horror of the picture of what has been going on in Asia Minor and Armenia. Yet the facts are plain. Perhaps a quarter of a million of the Armenian population has escaped into Russia ; a far greater number, probably not less than half a million, has been slaughtered or deported. The deported are dying rapidly of ill-treatment, disease, and starvation. The massacres are still going on. The scene at Trebizond, where the Italian Consul describes, on the evidence of eye-witnesses, the drowning of thousands of unarmed Armenians (men, women, and children) is apparently typical of a persecution such as the world has never seen. It is nothing less than the extirpation of a Christian nation. Whether Germany would be moved by any neutral protest to effective intervention with her Mohammedan ally, or even perhaps whether her intervention in the present situation of affairs would be effective, is possibly doubtful. It is not doubtful that it is the duty of all Christian nations to leave nothing that they can do untried to end a black horror which stands out pre-eminent even in the blood-stained tragedy of the world war.

INDICTMENT BY LORD BRYCE.

500,000 ARMENIANS KILLED OR DEPORTED.

Lord Bryce has written a striking letter on the "ghastly work" of the Turks in Armenia, where an organised attempt is being made to exterminate the whole Christian population.

The letter, which is addressed to Mr. Aneurin Williams, M.P., suggests that only Germany can stop the massacres, and that an appeal might be made to her by neutral countries to use her influence with her ally.

The Associated Press publishes the letter in New York. Its text, as telegraphed by Reuter, is as follows :—

Sept. 18, 1915.

DEAR MR. WILLIAMS,

You are right in thinking that the civilised world, and especially the American people, ought to know what horrors have been passing in Asiatic Turkey during the last few months, for if anything can stop the destroying hand of the Turkish Government it will be an expression of the opinion of neutral nations, and chiefly of the judgment of humane America.

Soon after the war between Turkey and the Allies broke out the Turkish Government formed, and has ever since been carrying out with relentless cruelty, the plan of extirpating Christianity by killing off the Christians of Armenian race. The Armenian population, peaceable peasants and artisans in the Eastern provinces of Turkey, were remaining quiet. They had not rebelled. They were unarmed. Many of them were serving in the Turkish army. But they were Christians, and the Government doubtless supposed they were not in sympathy with rulers who had oppressed and robbed them for generations, and who in 1895-96, and again six or seven years ago, had massacred many thousands of them without provocation.

DELIBERATE EXTERMINATION.

The massacres of this year have, however, gone far beyond even those of 1895-96. The accounts which have now found their way to Western Europe—accounts coming from different sources but agreeing with one another, and as to whose substantial truth there can be no doubt—prove that over the whole of Eastern and Northern Asia Minor and Armenia the whole Christian population is being deliberately exterminated. The men of military age have been killed. The younger women have been seized for Turkish harems, compelled to become Mohammedans, and kept, sometimes with their children, also forcibly converted, in virtual slavery.

The rest of the inhabitants, old men, women, and children, have been torn from their homes and driven away under convoys of Turkish soldiers, largely composed of released criminals, some into unhealthy parts of Asia Minor, some into the deserts between Syria and the Euphrates. Many die or are murdered on the way ; all perish sooner or later. Lest any should, if they escaped, try to regain their homes, Muslims have been brought in from other places to occupy the houses and farms from which the Christians had been expelled.

No greater injury could be done to the country than to destroy the most intelligent and industrious and educated part of its population, but for that the reckless and ruthless men who now control Turkey do not care.

MASSACRE BY DROWNING.

In Trebizond, a city where the Armenians, numbering more than 10,000 persons, had dwelt in peace with their Muslim neighbours, orders came from Constantinople to seize all the Armenians. Many of their kindly neighbours tried to hide or protect them, but in vain. The troops hunted them all out, drove them to the shore, placed them in sailing boats, took them out to sea, threw them overboard and drowned them all, men, women, and children. Resistance was impossible, for the younger men had been carried off to the army, and the rest were unarmed. This was seen, and is described by the Italian Consul.

How many have perished over the whole country no one can tell. Some seem to have saved their lives by professing to accept Islam, and about 250,000 are said to have escaped across the frontier into Russian territory. But a far greater number, perhaps half a million, have been slaughtered or deported, and the deported are all fast dying of ill-treatment, disease, and starvation, while the massacres still go on.

Christianity, after maintaining itself in Armenia for seventeen centuries against the attacks, first, of the Persian fire-worshippers, and then of Saracens and Turks, is now completely rooted out of these countries. The roads and hills (says one account) are strewn with corpses, the corpses of innocent peasants.

POSSIBLE REMEDY.

The story of these horrors must surely touch every American heart, whatever its racial origin, whatever may be its sympathies with one or other party in the present war. No man in whom any pity lives can fail to feel for the helpless victims of the ferocity of their own Government. What can be done? We can all, of course, try to send aid to the miserable refugees now in Russian territory. But what can stop the massacres? Not the Allied Powers at war with Turkey. Only one Power can take action for that purpose. It is Germany. Would not an expression of American public opinion, voicing the conscience of neutral nations, lead Germany to exert her influence to check the Turkish Government before their ghastly work is complete?—I am, faithfully yours,

Aneurin Williams, Esq., M.P.

(Signed) BRYCE.

Lord Bryce's letter has brought forth other powerful comments. We take the following from *The Daily Chronicle* of Sept. 23rd:—

OUR SEVENTH ALLY.

ARMENIA'S FIGHT FOR NATIONAL EXISTENCE.

BY A CORRESPONDENT.

Viscount Bryce's eloquent appeal to America and other neutral nations on behalf of the Armenians, who are being so ruthlessly slaughtered in Asiatic Turkey, will, it is hoped, draw public attention to and enlist widespread sympathy for the sufferings of a Christian people who are being deliberately exterminated by the Turkish Government.

The quadruple Entente with Serbia and Belgium bring the number of the Allies to six, who is, then, this seventh Ally of whom we do not know? This is how the general public will question, because the facts concerning this Ally are not sufficiently brought before them by the British Press. And yet, all the while, this small Allied Nation is fighting on the side of the Allies, and her sacrifices are comparatively greater than those incurred by any nation at war at the present time. They are staking all they have, possession, home, life, country and national existence, in the sacred cause of the Allied Nations. It is easy to guess that the seventh Ally to whom I allude is the Armenian nation.

The Armenians began to fight on the side of the Entente from the very beginning. They did not wait an invitation, they did not bargain. The cause of the small nations, the principle of nationalities, for which the Entente Powers have drawn the sword, was so near to their heart, and corresponded so exactly to their secular aspirations, that at once they jumped at it, and at the signal given they threw themselves unreservedly, heart and soul, into the arena. The Balkan nations are to-day offering a sad spectacle of self-interest. They are waiting to see which side is the stronger, in order to side with it. Armenia did not do that. The righteousness of the cause for which the triplique began the war attracted them from the beginning, and full confidence in the Allied Powers for their future remuneration moved them to action, and so they fought. Over a hundred thousand of them are fighting in the Russian Army, about 20,000 Armenian Volunteers are also fighting in the Caucasus; Armenian Volunteers are also fighting even in France in the ranks of the Allies. It is even said that General Alexieff, the present Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Army, is an Armenian by origin.

APPEAL TO THE ALLIED NATIONS.

There was a time when the Armenians used to appeal to Europe on the grounds of pity and common Christian faith. From 1878 they have added another string to their bow when, after the conclusion of the Treaties of Berlin and Cyprus, in that year, they based their appeals on the treaty rights. England, as the principal actor of those treaties, had incurred great responsibilities towards the Armenians. Therefore they looked to her more specially to help and to right their grievances. But now, since the beginning of the war, the Armenians strengthened their claims by a third argument beside pity and treaty rights. They now back their claims on Europe and appeals to her by the fact that, as one of the Allied nations, they are fighting in her side and sealing their demand with their blood. If blood has to decide the matters of this world, surely the Armenians have shed enough blood throughout the long centuries, and more specially since the declaration of the present war, for every inch of their land is being soaked with their blood.

To be just, it must be admitted that England tried from time to time, in a measure, to redeem her humane and treaty obligations, but she found latterly Germany in her path to negative her efforts at Constantinople, and so the treaty articles on behalf of Armenia suffered to be treated as so many scraps of paper. Now, however, that Great Britain and the Allied Powers have at last risen in holy indignation against that nefarious doctrine of scrap of paper, and are actually fighting for the sacredness of treaties, the Armenians greatly hope that the Allies will not stop at half-measures, and that they will not apply the principle to Belgium alone and forget a still older victim of the scrap of paper doctrine, bleeding Armenia. The task of doing justice to Armenia at the close of the war will be so much easier considering that there will be no more German obstruction, and Russia being more friendly with the Armenians, England will encounter no difficulty in doing justice to this sorely tried nation, their seventh Ally.

THE CLAIM OF THE ARMENIANS.

The question then arises, What is it this Ally is striving to get at the final settlement of affairs? The Balkan States have each their own national aspirations to be fulfilled, Serbia covets Bosnia and a seaport, Roumania wants Transylvania, Italy fights for her "Italia Irredenta." What do the Armenians fight for? The claim of the Armenians is a very modest one. It consists in the guarantee of their national existence, in the right of living unmolested in their own country, with full scope of developing their abilities. And they think that it will be possible only by granting them a measure of autonomous régime, under the protec-

tion of the Allied Powers. They are convinced that this will be the best final solution of the long-standing Armenian question, to the benefit not only of the Armenians themselves, but also of other races inhabiting that country, and not less to the benefit also of the neighbouring States.

But till then, and while the Armenians are fighting, they are at a loss to understand the ignorance, indifference, lack of interest of the British public and the silence of the British Press regarding Armenian affairs and needs, which at the present juncture are not less important and pressing than those of Belgium and Poland. Hundreds of thousands of Armenian refugees, whose homes are destroyed and able-bodied men fighting, massacred or deported, are fleeing from the country, naked, hungry, diseased, to take refuge in Russia. Considering the fact that it was owing to Britain's unfortunate intervention that Armenia was condemned to remain under the Turkish misrule in 1878, and consequently to undergo the present misery, one would have naturally expected that the British public would have been anxious to seize every opportunity for redeeming their obligation towards this greatly wronged people, now their Ally. Instead of that the coldness and lack of interest in their just cause greatly surprises the Armenians. The heartrending appeals on their behalf from certain quarters are inadequately responded to. British generosity must be exercised on a much larger scale than it has yet been if these people, the only hope for Armenia's future, have to be kept alive.

The *Manchester Guardian*, to which we are largely indebted for its forcible advocacy of our cause, has the following comments on the above letter in its issue of September 22nd. :—

LORD BRYCE AND THE ARMENIANS.

There is no evidence to show that the Turkish outrages on Armenians have abated or are likely to abate. If matters continue as at present, the ghastliest crime in modern times will have been carried out without anything being done to stop it. The circumstances of the case exclude the possibility of any effective protest on the part of the Allies, who, normally, are the protectors of the Armenians, and in the present war are under a greater obligation than before. It is through Germany alone that an improvement can be brought about. And Germany, which has so far shown herself insensible to any considerations of conscience, can only be influenced by the pressure of neutral opinion. The letter which Lord Bryce has just written to Mr. Aneurin Williams, and which sets out the horrors in Armenia

with remarkable cogency, will no doubt contribute to forming this opinion. America, to whom he appeals in particular to take the lead, will listen with attention to the words of one it knows so well and esteems so highly. It is a matter which involves the most elementary principles of humanity, and Americans, once they realise the fact, will, it is to be hoped, not be slow to voice their opinion.

Announcements.

THE ARMENIAN UNITED ASSOCIATION OF LONDON.

There will be an "At Home" of the Association on Sunday, October 10th, from 3.30 to 6.30 p.m., at the Elysée Hall, Queen's Road, Bayswater, W.

A lecture will be delivered by Mr. W. Llew. Williams, late Editor of "The Sunday Strand," on

Serbia's Fight for Freedom: an Example to Armenia.

The lecture will begin at 3.45, and members and their friends are earnestly requested to be in their seats punctually, so as to avoid distracting the attention of the lecturer when he has once begun.

Literary Section.

A Historical Sketch of Russia's Relations with Armenia

(Continued from page 89.)

V.

Alexander I (1801-1825) was the son and successor of Paul, but his time being almost wholly absorbed in the Napoleonic wars and in the subsequent settlement of affairs in Europe, he was unable to give his thoughts much to the East. He, nevertheless, took a certain amount of interest in Armenian affairs. The Persian Court had installed in the See of Etchmiadzin an Armenian ecclesiastic named David; and, by means of intrigues, had obtained the consent of Russia to this choice, Tamara, the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople, being instructed by his Government to obtain the Sultan's *firman* confirming the election of David. It soon, however, came to the knowledge of the young Czar that an injustice had been done in the matter, and that the real candidate of the nation was not David, but

Daniel, who had secured the votes of Armenians in Turkey, in Russia, and at Etchmiadzin. He at once countermanded the instructions that had been issued to Tamara, and directed him to have matters put right. In this reversal of his own orders is indicated the high guiding principles, and the love of justice more than anything, which actuated the Czar, and we find him writing thus to Tamara: "Though you have achieved a great triumph for Russia in obtaining the *firman* for David, yet I prefer to sacrifice that advantage rather than disregard the voice of the people and act contrary to the truth, which I respect beyond everything." Tamara was thus constrained to change his tactics with the Sultan, and succeeded in obtaining a *firman* for Daniel. Alexander too, on his part, confirmed the election of Daniel in May, 1802. Persia, however, continued her intrigues and persisted in her support of David, until, in September, 1804, he was deposed and Daniel succeeded to his rightful position. The Shah of Persia was also prevailed upon to consent to the latter's election.

Again, in 1809, without waiting for the *firmans* of the Sultan and the Shah, Alexander confirmed the election of Yeprem as Catholicos, when the Sec of Etchmiadzin fell vacant on the death of Daniel. Here we see a steadily growing tendency on the part of Russia to bring within her interest and influence matters affecting Armenians. Moreover, Alexander took pleasure in the sincere attachment of the Armenian people to Russia, and issued a *ukase* eulogising their faithfulness to Russia in her critical period of the Napoleonic invasion in 1811-12, when the Mohammedan population of the Caucasus took up arms against her, whereas the Armenians assisted the Russians in no small measure to extricate themselves from their difficulties.

VI.

With the accession to the throne of Nicholas I (1825-1855), the brother of Alexander, the plans of Peter the Great and of Catherine for an active policy towards the south were reverted to. Nicholas had much to do with Turkey in Europe; he favoured and supported the Greek rebellion; it was he who concluded with Turkey the treaties of Adrianople (1828) and Hunkiar Iskelessi (1833); and it was he who waged the Crimean War, during the course of which he died.

His dealings, however, with Persia and Armenia are of chief interest to us here. It was in 1828 that the Russo-Persian war was declared, and Paskevitch was nominated to the command of the Russian force. As in the reign of Catherine, so now a great Armenian ecclesiastic, Archbishop Nerses, who later became Catholicos, was in residence at Tiflis and greatly assisted the Russians in their project and facilitated their occupation of Transcaucasian Armenia. Nerses possessed a vast influence over Armenians, and directed that influence in favour of Russia. No sooner war with Persia became imminent, Nerses issued a stirring appeal to his people in the Caucasus, urging them to side faithfully with the Russians, and to arm themselves with

the object of driving the Persians out of Armenia. He secured authority from the Czar for the formation of an independent battalion of Armenian volunteers, having their own organisation and fighting under their own banner; and he himself mounted his charger, reviewed his troops and delivered an inspiring harangue, which was received with immense enthusiasm. General Madatoff, an Armenian, took command of this battalion, and joined in the Russian expedition, gaining fame for himself by several notable victories over the Persians.

Mention should be made here of another notable Armenian ecclesiastic who distinguished himself in these operations against the Persians. Bishop Manutchariantz was a fearless and a daring warrior, and a good horseman; indeed, he was as competent to wield the weapons of the battlefield as to use the pen in his study. He was, in fact, a leader of his flock both in the material and in the spiritual sense. Whenever an attack or a danger threatened in any corner of the bishop's diocese, his appearance alone was sufficient to inspire courage in his flock and terror among his enemies, who named him "the mad bishop." The prowess he displayed at times was so extraordinary that his simple-minded flock explained them as miracles. The Russian authorities knew the man and did not hesitate to make use of his powers in several difficult circumstances, while Nerses encouraged him to devote all willing service to the Russians. In the expedition against Kantzak and Erivan, Manutchariantz, at the head of his 500 mounted Armenian volunteers, contributed greatly to the success of the enterprise. In one of the battles, the Russian General having personally witnessed the Bishop's heroism, pinned on his breast, on the field of his exploit, the decoration of St. George, and secured for him an annual grant of 300 roubles. In another battle the Bishop gained the decorations of Vladimir and Anna, and his annual grant was increased to 600 roubles. On another occasion, when a Persian contingent threatened to abduct the Catholicos Yeprem from Haghat, Manutchariantz, with only forty horsemen, put to flight a band of 300 Persians and succeeded in bringing Yeprem safely to Tiflis. It was on yet another occasion that General Yermolof asked the Bishop to proceed to Shamshatil and quell a rising of the Mohammedans there. The mission was carried through with such consummate success that, when Yermolof visited the district and saw for himself what had been accomplished, his surprise was so intense that he embraced the Bishop and asked in what manner he could reward him. The Bishop's answer was characteristic—personally he needed nothing, but the Armenian peasantry did, and he craved that they should no longer be used by the Mohammedans as serfs, even though the country was now under Christian rule. His request was granted in full.

With such assistance given by notable men of the country, and with the Armenians welcoming the Russians with open arms and supplying them abundantly with provisions for their expedition, wherever and whenever these were needed, it is no wonder that

Paskevitch found it a matter of no great difficulty to defeat the Persians. In quick succession Etchmiadzin, Erivan and Tabriz fell, and he at once began his march towards Teheran, the capital. It was only then that Abbas Mirza and his father, Feth Ali Shah, recognised that opposition was useless and consented to sue for peace. By the terms of the peace, which was concluded at Turkmentchai on February 9th, 1828, the two districts of Erivan and Nakhitchevan were ceded to Russia; and it was further stipulated, in compliance with the special request of Archbishop Nerses, that all Armenians, wishing to emigrate to Russian provinces, should do so without any let or hindrance.

VII.

No sooner peace with Persia was concluded, Paskevitch was directed to turn his battalions against Turkey. With rapid movement, so as not to give the Turks time to prepare any opposition, he fell on them and took in quick succession Kars, Akhalkalak, Poti, Akhalzik, Erzeroum, Papert and Gumushane. He was then meditating a march on Trebizond, when the news reached him of the conclusion of the Treaty of Adrianople on Sept. 14th, 1829, whereby almost all the conquered districts were restored to Turkey, and Paskevitch had accordingly to return to Tiflis. These, it should be noted, are precisely the same districts which the Turks are at the present moment trying to invade and reconquer from Russia, who regained parts of them later as we shall see. The Turkish armies have been obliged to retreat under heavy losses, and are being followed up by the Russians, who will undoubtedly appear again before Erzeroum as they did before. And is this to be the last occasion on which the fair fields of Armenia under Turkish rule will be devastated, or will the Russian efforts be again nullified through the jealousy of the Powers, and conquered Armenian lands handed back to Turkey? The near future will show.

We have seen that in 1828 Russia acquired from Persia the two districts of Erivan and Nakhitchevan. The territory was not extensive but it was important from an Armenian standpoint, including, as it did, the famous and holy city of Etchmiadzin, the seat of the Catholicos. Moreover, there was an immense exodus of Armenian emigrants into Russian territory, following in the wake of the Russian army. Archbishop Nerses, with diplomatic foresight, had the intuition to anticipate that all the conquests of Paskevitch in Persia would never be retained; and in the rendition that must follow the Persians would deal with the Armenians left behind as traitors for facilitating the advance of, and giving assistance to, the Russians. Accordingly, he had despatched emissaries beforehand into all those districts to persuade and assist the Armenian population to emigrate into Russia. His efforts were not without success, and it is estimated that fully a 100,000 Armenians crossed the Russian frontiers at this time both from Persia and from Turkey.

In recognition of the valuable services which Archbishop Nerses had rendered to the Russian armies in this campaign, the Czar Nicholas bestowed on him the decoration of St. Alex. Nevski; and in a *ukase* accompanying the decoration he expressed his appreciation of the services rendered in the following eulogistic terms:—

“Your work with our army has often brought with it danger to your person. General Paskevitch has frequently reported to me your heroism; and that, in the entire duration of the campaign, you have made yourself useful to Russia with your sincere attachment, as well as by keeping alive the friendly disposition of the Armenians—and this you have done not only with your advice and counsel, but, above all, by setting before them a noble example.”

The essential feature of the Persian campaign of 1828 is that it was regarded, and was accepted to be, a war for the deliverance of a Christian race from the yoke of Mohammedan domination. There was no question here, it is true, of that grandiose and fascinating scheme of Catherine to set up, in the midst of the Mohammedan East, a Christian State. Nor, indeed, did Russia yet look upon the two conquered districts as so much addition to Russian territory—they were not merely to be merged into and swallowed up in her vast Empire. The two districts were to keep their own distinctive character as *Armenia*; and soon after the ratification of the Treaty of Turkmentchai, an imperial order was signed, whereby the conquered land was to be styled *The Country of the Armenians*, and it was declared that, to the many titles of the Czars of Russia, a new title was to be added, that of *King of the Country of the Armenians*. Underlying this modest assumption of sovereignty may perhaps be detected the anticipation that the little conquest indicated but the firstfruits of a larger scheme for the conquest of Greater Armenia and the ultimate unification of the two.

The contemporaries of Nerses have recorded that Paskevitch, before entering on his Persian campaign, and seeing the great influence Nerses wielded over both Armenians and Persians, entered into negotiations with him, giving him formal assurances and promise towards the formation of a “free Armenia.” When, however, the campaign was ended and the Archbishop’s services were no longer necessary, Paskevitch abandoned Nerses, and even managed to remove him from Armenia, finally deporting him to Bessarabia from his seat at Tiflis, the scene of his life’s activity. This harsh treatment is accounted for by the writers on the grounds that Paskevitch feared Nerses might take advantage of the promises given to him regarding Armenia. They further report, in confirmation of their surmise, that Nerses always carried about his person a document of great importance, which was found to have disappeared at his sudden death.

VIII.

From 1829 to 1853 a quarter of a century passed without any special symptoms of hostility being evinced between Russia and Turkey. During the second half of this period the British Ambassadorship at Constantinople was in the able hands of the great *Elchi*, Sir Stratford Canning, and it was his diplomatic talent that placed Great Britain’s ascendancy at the Turkish capital beyond question. The Czar Nicholas, anxious to counteract this influence and to establish his own ascendancy, thought of having recourse to a radical remedy. He had noticed for some time the gradual decline of Turkey as a Power, and felt that provision should be made in advance for the heritage of the Sick Man. England seemed to him the only one of the European Powers whose action might carry weight in the matter, and with whom arrangements should be made for settling the Eastern Question. He set to work first by discussing the question frankly with the British Ambassador to Russia, Sir Hamilton Seymour. His plan was to set up a new State, under Russian protection, comprising Roumania, Serbia and Bulgaria; while England could take Egypt, and also Crete if she liked, provided she kept her hands off Constantinople. On his part Nicholas was to promise that he too would keep clear of that city. His conviction was that the possession of Constantinople would prove as disastrous for Russia as it had in the past for Greece and Rome. “If we come to an understanding,” he said, “with England on this question, I do not care what other Powers think or do about it.” But England was averse to the entertainment of any such proposal. The integrity and the continuance of the Turkish Empire was then the *credo* of British statesmen, and the only possible solution to them of the Eastern problem. It can be imagined, then, how distasteful to England was the policy of partitioning Turkey in any shape or form. British statesmen honestly believed at the time in the possibility of Turkish regeneration.

Seeing that his proposal met with no sympathy from the British Government, Nicholas decided to act on his own initiative and to force the issue. The pretext arose over a question in connection with the Holy Places in Jerusalem. The Greeks had taken advantage of a tension in the relations between Turkey and France, and by the use of liberal bribes had secured predominance over the Latins in Jerusalem. When Napoleon III came to power, his efforts were directed towards getting back from the Porte all the ancient privileges the Latins had enjoyed, and to a certain measure he succeeded. It was now the turn of Nicholas to strengthen his influence at the Porte, and he claimed protectorate over all the Christians of the Orthodox Church in the Ottoman Empire. And towards securing this privilege he sent Prince Mentchikoff with an imposing escort to Constantinople as *Ambassadeur extraordinaire*.

Mentchikoff's mission was certainly not wanting in outward pomp, but the display of his diplomatic powers was scant, and his action decidedly blustering and high-handed. Basing his demands on the Treaty of Kainardji he claimed protectorate over all of the Greek religion in Turkey, as France was recognised the protector of Roman Catholics; and, proceeding from this claim, the Greeks were to have precedence in the Holy Places. The Porte was given five days in which to send in its reply. But Reschid Pasha, the reformer, who was then Grand Vizier, was not to be cowed by so far-reaching a demand, and refused to comply. Mentchikoff had no alternative but to leave Constantinople with the retinue and *personnel* of his special mission; and this was followed by Russia's declaration of war against Turkey.

Europe was startled by the turn events had taken, but, apart from Napoleon III, no Power seemed directly interested in the quarrel. Napoleon, however, managed matters so astutely, that he was able to drag England into it—England that had slowly and gradually become the inveterate enemy of Russia. Together they arrived at an understanding to defend Turkey against Russian encroachments; and thus began the Crimean War in 1853, when we see France and England championing Turkey's cause. With varying fortune the war dragged on into its third year, until Sebastopol fell in September, 1855. Nicholas died during the course of the war, and his son and successor, Alexander II, a prince of a peaceful disposition, consented to cease hostilities, and the famous Treaty of Paris was concluded on March 30th, 1856.

The theatre of the Crimean War was mainly restricted to the Crimea and European Turkey. But the Russians made efforts to counterbalance their defeats in the Crimea by some victories in Armenia, where the English and the French were not in a position to help the Turks. The great fortress of Kars, situated 6,000 feet above sea level, was one of their objectives, and the English General, Williams, was sent there to conduct the defence. After heroically withstanding the Russian onslaughts for six months, Kars fell to the Russians in 1855. But, as after its first capture by Paskevitch in 1828, Kars had again to be evacuated by its victors and handed back to Turkey under the terms of the Treaty of Paris. Thus the Russians made no new conquests from Turkey in the Armenian provinces during this conflict.

IX.

The Treaty of Paris kept the peace of Europe and of Asia for about twenty years, until 1877, when Alexander II, the same Czar of pacific tendencies, launched his forces against Turkey. On this occasion the reason was a laudable one. The Turks had perpetrated inhuman acts and massacres on the Bulgarians in 1876, the news of which thrilled all Europe, and Alexander championed the cause of

Bulgaria. England, faithful to her set policy of upholding the integrity and independence of the Ottoman Empire, refused to join in any combination of the Powers with the object of coercing the Sultan. (See Andrassi Note, Memorandum of Berlin, etc.) She merely took part in the Conference at Constantinople of December, 1876, and signed, in conjunction with the other Powers, a very mild ultimatum to Turkey; and as this was not accepted by the Porte, Alexander declared war on Turkey, alone to wrest from her what all the Powers of Europe together had not succeeded in obtaining. The Russian armies advanced through European Turkey, after reducing the famous fortresses of Plevna (Osman Pasha) and of the Shipka Pass (Suleiman Pasha), towards Constantinople, and were only restrained from occupying the capital by the threats of England to enter the war. The final results of the campaign were embodied in the Treaty of San Stefano, soon to be superseded by the Treaty of Berlin in 1878.

The heroic valour exhibited by the Russians in the European theatre of the war had its counterpart in the Asiatic battlefields—in Armenia. The Grand Duke Michael, the generalissimo in this portion of the campaign, had under his command 180,000 men. General Loris Melikoff, an Armenian, had the actual direction of the operations. General Arshak Der Ghougasoff, another Armenian, captured Bayazid, Utek-Kilissé, and Alashkerd. Ardahan and other places were soon reduced, and the Russian army set its face towards Kars. Ahmed Moukhtar Pasha, the Commander of the Turkish army here, had to leave Kars to its fate and march to Erzeroum, Kars falling to General Lazaref, also an Armenian, on November 19th, 1877. Moukhtar Pasha was not, however, to be left master of Erzeroum, for Loris Melikoff marched against it and besieged it. Moukhtar fled from here too, and proceeded to Baibourt with the object of getting together a new army; but he was summoned to Constantinople, and the Russian troops entered Erzeroum on February 21st, 1878.

It will be observed that this was the third occasion within half a century on which the Russians were obliged to go over the same ground in Armenia—in 1829, 1855, and 1878; and on this occasion too, at the Peace Congress of Berlin, they were deprived of most of their Armenian conquests, which were handed back to Turkey. Kars, Ardahan and Batoum, with their districts, were alone left in Russian hands, and this time they were simply annexed to Russia without any special stipulation as to their being "The land of the Armenians," a portion of which had been previously conquered, and over which the Czars had assumed the title of *King*.

X.

Thirty-seven eventful years for Armenia have passed since the Congress of Berlin. During those years the Armenian districts bordering on the Russian frontiers have been tyrannized over by

Turkey, who has taken advantage of the jealousies of the Powers and has subjected the Armenians to cruel and inhuman treatment; until we find, at the present moment, Turkey drawn up on the side of the Germanic Powers and arrayed against Russia, Great Britain, France and Italy, while Armenia is being slowly depopulated of her sons and daughters. We find, too, that Russia is obliged for the fourth time since 1829, to march through the self-same districts of Bayazid, Alashkerd, Erzeroum, Van, etc., and the soil is being soaked afresh with the blood of our countrymen amidst all the horrors of war, which are inseparably united, in the Turkish mind, with the fiendish massacres of the helpless. As in all the wars that Russia has waged in this quarter from the time of Peter the Great, so now the Armenians are helping and guiding the Russian armies in tracts they know well. The Armenians of Transcaucasia, who owe allegiance to Russia, have thrown themselves heart and soul into the conflict, with the burning desire to free their brethren from the Turkish yoke. It would be a cruel illusion if, after all these sacrifices, the Russian armies should once more fall back and hand over the Armenian fatherland to the brutal vengeance of Turk and Kurd. But we feel there is an awakening in the world which would never tolerate such a deed. If we may judge by the Russian semi-official press, the great scheme of Peter the Great and of Catherine to revive the old Armenian State under Russian protection, and thus redeem all the promises and hopes which have been given at different times, has still a substratum of possibilities about it to enable it to develop into reality. We have seen that it was solely at the invitation of, and through the assistance furnished by Armenians that Russia, in the first instance, obtained her permanent foothold in Transcaucasia. Would it be asking too much of her to recompense in a measure this faithful friend and ally of hers, Armenia, by starting her in political life once more? Armenians have been the victims of disappointment in the days of Peter, of Catherine, and of Nicholas I; let them be spared, at this juncture, when they are doing their utmost for the cause of civilisation, a repetition of past experiences.

And, finally, what is England going to do to redeem her pledges of the past for Armenia? Surely she cannot on this occasion renew her satiric jest of the impossibility of sending her fleet over the Taurus Mountains! Her ally, Russia, is already on Armenian soil, and, in conjunction with her other ally, France, she is almost at the gates of Constantinople with her fleet and her army. Have her eyes been yet opened to the extent of renouncing her Turcophile tendencies, where Armenian interests are concerned? And will she use her beneficial influence, and encourage and approve Russia's liberal tendencies towards Armenia? These are questions of moment which Armenians ask in some anxiety. But surely is it possible for England to act otherwise?

Reviews and Notices.

"THE ARMENIAN CHURCH," by Archdeacon Dowling, with an Introduction by the late Bishop of Salisbury. (London: S.P.C.K., Northumberland Avenue, W.C.). Price 3/6.

Published before *Ararat* entered on its existence, we have not hitherto noticed this work in our pages, but the prominence given to Armenia during the present war has brought her Church and all connected with her into strong relief, and during the current month we have noticed two articles, in the *Churchman* and in the *Church of Ireland Gazette*, which speak with sympathy of the "oldest National Church in the world," and express the opinion that, of all Reformed Churches, the Anglican is the one which should be best able to hold out to the Armenians a helping hand of fellowship. With such a revival of interest among churchmen in this country, it is but right that we should make amends for our past apparent neglect and give due prominence to this work, whose author has spent the best years of his life in close intimacy with Armenian Church dignitaries in the Near East, and thus writes with first-hand knowledge, combined with a sympathetic interest, which are the true attributes of a successful historian. Moreover, being an Anglican, his views and conclusions should be accepted with less bias than if they had come from an Armenian writing of his own Church.

A student of Church History would naturally, in the first place, like to fathom the doctrine and the tenets of any particular Church he was studying. In the case of the Armenian Church, there are unfortunately for such a student many pitfalls. The Church has been styled Monophysite and Eutychian, and therefore heretical; but those who have probed the matter with true sincerity are satisfied that no such stigma can attach to it; on the contrary, it has preserved its faith and its doctrine in accordance with the decisions of the earliest Church Councils, and has steered clear of the multiplication of dogmas with which the Roman Church is beclouded. Dr. Dowling, in this case, has done good service to the Armenian Church by laying bare the falseness of the accusation; and if any are not convinced by his quotations and conclusions, and by the fact that a Church which solemnly anathematizes Eutyches cannot be styled Eutychian, then nothing will convince them. We commend to the notice of those interested on this point pages 60-64 of the book.

We would next draw attention to the remarkable answer of Bishop Mouradantz to the Encyclical of Pope Leo XIII, calling upon the Armenians to join the Holy Fold. This was not the first attempt to allure Armenians to bow the knee to the Popes of Rome, and the

vigorous and convincing answer, supported step by step from Holy Writ, had for its "sole object," as stated therein, "to pourtray the truth in its own colours, in order that it may be most clearly seen that the Holy Apostolic Church of Armenia is neither in error nor has strayed from the truth, nor in need of invitations to return to the truth." The entire answer is well worth perusal.

The reader will find in the book an accurate account of the doctrine and ritual of the Armenian Church, of the ceremonies of ordination and consecration, of the Armenian Bible, called the "Queen of Versions," and many another item of interest. English readers will perhaps be surprised to learn that St. Blasius, in their Calendar of Saints, was an Armenian Bishop and Martyr. He is the patron saint of weavers and woolcombers, because of the resemblance of the iron combs they use to one of the instruments of torture associated with him, and he is specially honoured in Yorkshire, where he is credited with having invented wool-combing! Guilds were formerly dedicated in his name at Norwich, and elsewhere.

Space forbids us to dilate on various other points—the friendly relations between the Armenian and Anglican Churches, and inter-communion between them which the late Bishop of Salisbury, in his Christian liberality, encouraged and carried out. There are chapters on Armenians in the United States, on Protestant and Roman Catholic Armenians, on Church melody, massacres, etc. The illustrations are well produced.

"RACE SENTIMENT AS A FACTOR IN HISTORY," by the Right Hon. Viscount Bryce, O.M. (London: Hodder & Stoughton.) 1/- net.

This is a publication in pamphlet form of the Creighton Lecture delivered by Lord Bryce last February before the University of London. In this learned sketch of the growth of Race Sentiment, the author carries us through the mists of ancient and mediæval times right up to the beginnings of the American and French Revolutions which, in fact, mark the origins of race consciousness. We find him tracing in a masterly manner the evolution and the different stages of the social orders and the political and religious factors which went to shape Europe both in the dark ages and in modern times; and he finally shows, as concrete examples, the principle of Nationality inspiring Greeks, Italians, Poles and Magyars, and still later, Serbs, Roumans, Bulgarians and Armenians.

The pamphlet has been translated into Armenian by Mr. A. S. Safrastian with the permission of Lord Bryce, who has graciously enriched the Armenian edition with an Introduction. This Armenian edition is being published at Tiflis, and the proceeds of the sale will be devoted by the translator to the Armenian Relief Fund.

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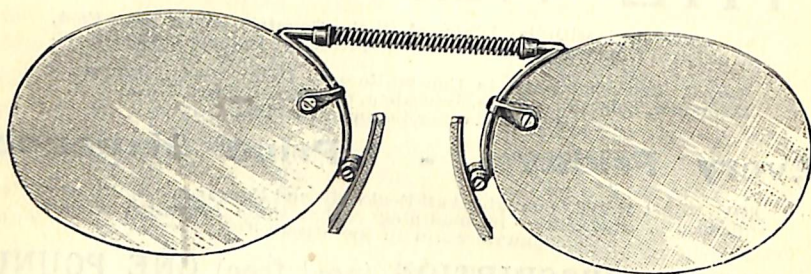
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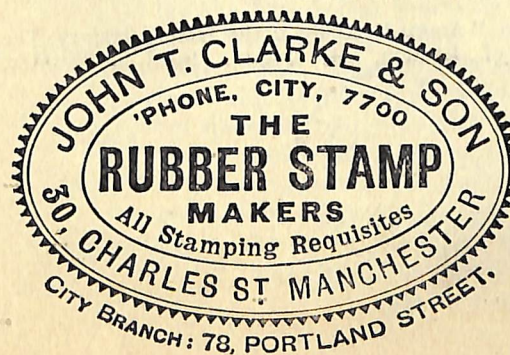
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